



CYNTHIA A. HARDING, M.P.H.
Interim Director

JEFFREY D. GUNZENHAUSER, M.D., M.P.H.
Interim Health Officer

Substance Abuse Prevention and Control

Wesley L. Ford, M.A., M.P.H.

Director

1000 South Fremont Avenue

Building A-9 East, Third Floor

Alhambra, CA 91803

TEL (626) 299-4193 • FAX (626) 458-7637

www.publichealth.lacounty.gov



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Interim Bulletin

TO: Executive Directors

FROM: Gary Tsai, M.D., Medical Director 
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control

SUBJECT: **CLAS STANDARDS**

With the ever-changing needs of the substance abuse population in Los Angeles County, it is critical to ensure equitable access to services. In an effort to reduce health disparities and improve services and treatment outcomes, Federal and State laws require health service providers to implement the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) in Health and Health Care. The 15 CLAS standards include the three major areas/themes of: 1) governance, leadership, workforce; 2) communication and language assistance; and 3) engagement and continuous improvement and accountability.

Programs are responsible for developing a CLAS plan and implementing activities that touch upon these primary themes. To assist with this process, the Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) organized several trainings that addressed CLAS, cultural competency and substance use this past year. In addition, please see the attached **SAPC Resource Sheet** that provides educational and training materials to help programs develop and/or update their CLAS plans and activities.

Further details to ensure adherence to CLAS standards through SAPC's monitoring process will be provided in the near future for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. SAPC will keep you updated on this process and appreciates your continued work and cooperation on this matter.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Gary Tsai at (626) 299-3504 or gtsai@ph.lacounty.gov.

WLF:gt

Attachment